Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of operating a mobile user device to gate reverse link transmissions, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast signal by the mobile user device;

comparing by the mobile user device a quality of the received broadcast signal to a quality threshold;

determining by the mobile user device whether the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold,

in the event that the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold:

determining a gating rate based on the quality of the received broadcast signal, wherein the gating rate establishes a time period between reverse link communications;

communicating, to a network control element, an intent to gate at the gating rate;

receiving an acknowledgement, from the network control element, authorizing reverse link gating at the gating rate; and

transmitting reverse link communications at the gating rate responsive to receiving the acknowledgment.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, further including the step of receiving the quality threshold from the network control element.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of determining whether the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold includes the step of determining whether the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold for a first time period.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of receiving an acknowledgment includes receiving, from the network control element, an action time at which reverse link gating is to commence.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

determining whether the quality of the received broadcast signal is below the quality threshold for a second time period;

in the event that the quality of the received broadcast signal is below the quality threshold for the second period of time:

transmitting, to the network control element, an intent to change the gating rate to a new gating rate, the new gating rate being lower than the gating rate and resulting in a decreased time period between reverse link communications;

receiving, from the network control element, a new rate acknowledgement, including an action time at which reverse link gating is to commence at the new gating rate; and

transmitting reverse link communications at the new gating rate responsive to receiving the new rate acknowledgment.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for controlling reverse link transmissions in a wireless communication network that includes at least a network control element and at least one mobile user device, the method comprising:

determining, by the network control element, whether a parameter relating to broadcast transmission quality exceeds a threshold; and

responsive to determining that the parameter exceeds the threshold, transmitting, by the network control element, a message to the at least one mobile user device, the message instructing the at least one mobile user device to alter the frequency of ~~start gating~~ reverse link transmissions at a specified ~~gating~~ rate.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the parameter is a transmit power variability of a broadcast signal, and wherein the step of determining includes determining whether the transmit power variability of the broadcast signal exceeds a threshold.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the parameter is a quantity of mobile user devices in a sector of the wireless communication network and wherein the step of determining includes determining whether the quantity of mobile user devices in the sector exceeds a threshold.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

broadcasting a signal to notify all mobile user devices in a sector of the wireless communication network to initiate gating reverse link transmissions at the specified gating rate.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the broadcast signal further includes a gating start time.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of transmitting the message includes transmitting the message over a forward dedicated control channel (F-DCCH) of the at least one mobile user device.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein the message includes an individual start time.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein mobile user devices located near an edge of a cell of the wireless communication network are less gated than mobile user devices located near a base station of the wireless communication network.

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the parameter is a strength of a pilot signal for a broadcast transmission channel as measured at the at least one mobile user device.

Claim 21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): A network element comprising:

a controller operable to determine whether a parameter relating to broadcast transmission quality exceeds a threshold and, when the parameter exceeds the threshold, generate a message instructing a plurality of mobile user devices to alter the frequency of ~~start gating~~ reverse link transmissions at a ~~gating~~ specified rate; and

a transceiver coupled to the controller and operable to transmit the message to the plurality of mobile user devices.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The network element according to claim 22, wherein the parameter is a transmit power variability of a broadcast signal, and wherein the controller determines whether the transmit power variability of the broadcast signal exceeds a threshold.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The network element according to claim 22, wherein the parameter is a quantity of mobile user devices in a coverage area of the wireless communication network and wherein the controller determines whether the quantity of mobile user devices in the coverage area exceeds a threshold.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method for controlling reverse link transmissions in a wireless communication network, the method comprising:

determining at least one of (a) a quantity of mobile user devices in a coverage area of a base station and (b) a variance in broadcast signal transmission power of the base station, to produce a monitored parameter;

determining whether the monitored parameter exceeds an associated threshold; and

responsive to determining that the monitored parameter exceeds the associated threshold, sending a message to at least one mobile user device, the message instructing the at least one mobile user device to start gating reverse link transmissions at a gating rate.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A wireless communication system comprising:

a base station;

a network element coupled to the base station, the network element being operable to:

determine at least one of (a) a quantity of mobile user devices in a coverage area of the base station and (b) a variance in broadcast signal transmission power of the base station, to produce a monitored parameter,

determine whether the monitored parameter exceeds an associated threshold, and

responsive to determining that the monitored parameter exceeds the associated threshold, send a message to at least one mobile user device via the base station, the message instructing the at least one mobile user device to start gating reverse link transmissions; and

a mobile user device located within the coverage area of the base station, the mobile user device including:

a mobile device transceiver operable to receive the message from the base station, and

a mobile device controller coupled to the mobile device transceiver, the mobile device controller operable to gate reverse link transmissions as instructed in the message.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A wireless mobile user device comprising:

a transceiver operable to at least receive a broadcast signal; and

a controller coupled to the transceiver, the controller operable to:

compare a quality of the received broadcast signal to a quality threshold;

determine whether the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold; and in the event that the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold:

determine a gating rate based on the quality of the received broadcast signal, wherein the gating rate establishes a time period between reverse link communications;

communicate, via the transceiver, an intent to gate at the gating rate to a network control element;

receive, via the transceiver, an acknowledgement from the network control element, the acknowledgment authorizing reverse link gating at the gating rate; and

transmit, via the transceiver, reverse link communications at the gating rate responsive to receiving the acknowledgment.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The wireless mobile user device according to claim 27, wherein the controller is further operable to receive, via the transceiver, the quality threshold from the network control element.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The wireless mobile user device according to claim 27, wherein the controller is further operable to determine whether the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold by at least determining whether the quality of the received broadcast signal exceeds the quality threshold for a first time period.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The wireless mobile user device according to claim 29, wherein the controller is further operable to:

determine whether the quality of the received broadcast signal is below the quality threshold for a second time period; and

in the event that the quality of the received broadcast signal is below the quality threshold for the second period of time:

transmit, to the network control element via the transceiver, an intent to change the gating rate to a new gating rate, the new gating rate being lower than the gating rate and resulting in a decreased time period between reverse link communications;

receive, from the network control element via the transceiver, a new rate acknowledgement, including an action time at which reverse link gating is to commence at the new gating rate; and

transmit, via the transceiver, reverse link communications at the new gating rate responsive to receiving the new rate acknowledgment.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The wireless mobile user device according to claim 27, wherein the controller is further operable to receive, from the network control element via the transceiver, an action time at which reverse link gating is to commence.